

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 INR-07 USIE-00
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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:FZBROWN:AVW
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S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 071997 TOSEC 030208

FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: BRZEZINSKI BRIEFING ON SALT

NO. 19

HEREWITH FULL TEXT OF REUTERS REPORT ON BRIEFING:

BEGIN TEXT: WHITE HOUSE RESPONDED CALMLY TODAY TO SOVIET
ATTACKS ON CARTER'S PROPOSALS FOR STRATEGIC ARMS CURBS AND
SAID IT BELIEVED FURTHER TALKS WOULD BEAR FRUIT.

A CONCILIATORY MOOD WAS EVIDENT AS BRZEZINSKI, PRESIDENT'S
NSC ADVISER, JOINED BATTLE FOR WORLD PUBLIC OPINION FOLLOW-
ING BREAK-UP OF STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS IN MOSCOW THIS WEEK.

BRZEZINSKI, WHO CONFIRMED SOVIET REPORTS OF DETAILS IN
AMERICAN ARMS LIMITATION PACKAGE, REFUSED TO MATCH WHAT HE
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CALLED ACERBIC LANGUAGE OF SOVIET FM GROMYKO.

MR. GROMYKO, SPEAKING AT AN UNUSUAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN
MOSCOW YESTERDAY, ACCUSED U.S. OF "CHEAP AND SHADY" MANEUVER-
ING TO WIN AN EDGE IN NUCLEAR STRENGTH.

BRZEZINSKI SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO ENGAGE IN RECRIMINATION.

INSTEAD, HE STRESSED PRESIDENT'S VIEW THAT SECSTATE VANCE PRESENTED A FAIR AND BALANCED PACKAGE FOR LIMITING AND EVENTUALLY REDUCING STRATEGIC ARMS LEVELS.

HE SPECULATED SOVIET ATTITUDE COULD CHANGE AFTER PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS HAD BEEN FULLY DIGESTED AND NOTED THAT RUSSIANS, AFTER FIERCE RESISTANCE, AGREED IN 1972 TO BAN BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS.

"WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT SEARCH FOR SOMETHING TRULY SIGNIFICANT WILL BEAR FRUIT," HE SAID.

BREAK-UP OF MOSCOW TALKS WAS VIEWED BY DIPLOMATIC EXPERTS AS A HARD BLOW FOR DETENTE AND A SOVIET TEST OF CARTER'S WILL AND HIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

SOME COMMENTATORS THOUGHT IT WAS THE WORST TURN IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN FIVE YEARS OF DETENTE, AND POSSIBLY SINCE PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON CANCELLED TRIP TO SOVIET UNION AFTER RUSSIAN INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968.

BUT BRZEZINSKI'S ATTITUDE AT WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE SEEMED TO REFLECT A VIEW THAT DETENTE HAD NOT NECESSARILY BEEN DERAILED, AND THAT OUTLOOK WAS BRIGHTER THAN IT SEEMED.

VERBAL BARRAGE FROM GROMYKO AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE TOOK WASHINGTON BY SURPRISE AND APPEARED TO REFLECT SOVIET ANGER OVER PRESIDENT'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS DIFFER-

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ENCES IN STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS.

BUT BRZEZINSKI, IN AN EFFORT TO COOL TEMPERS WHILE STILL APPEALING FOR WORLD SUPPORT OF AMERICAN POSITION, SAID HE FELT RUSSIANS MIGHT CHANGE THEIR POSITION AFTER A CLOSER LOOK AT PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS.

NOTING MR. VANCE AND MR. GROMYKO HAD AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN GENEVA IN MAY, HE SAID, "I AM NOT GOING TO ARGUE THAT THIS WAS AN INFALLIBLE (AMERICAN) PACKAGE...BUT WE MADE DAMNEDEST EFFORT TO PRODUCE A PACKAGE... IT WAS REASONABLE AND EQUITABLE FOR BOTH SIDES.

"WE WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT WHAT ASPECTS ARE PARTICULARLY TROUBLING TO SOVIETS."

BRZEZINSKI ADDED THAT U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO PACKAGE IN RETURN FOR ADJUSTMENTS BY RUSSIANS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT RUSSIANS HAD BEEN STARTLED BY COMPREHENSIVE NATURE OF NEW AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND NEEDED MORE TIME TO STUDY THEM.

HE SAID THEY HAD ALWAYS TAKEN PRIDE AT BEING IN FOREFRONT OF DISARMAMENT EFFORTS AND THERE WAS PERHAPS SOME DEFENSIVENESS IN THEIR ATTITUDE.

BRZEZINSKI SAID CARTER HAD PROPOSED MEASURES WHICH WOULD GIVE RUSSIANS STRATEGIC PARITY WITH U.S.' GREATER STABILITY AND POLITICAL ASSURANCES THAT WASHINGTON WAS TRULY INTERESTED IN DETENTE.

U.S. WANTED TO FOREGO STRATEGIC WEAPONS THAT WERE GREATEST THREAT TO RUSSIANS, BUT EXPECTED THAT SOVIET UNION WOULD FOLLOW SUIT, HE SAID.

HE CONFIRMED DISCLOSURES BY GROMYKO THAT U.S. WANTED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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REDUCE EACH SIDE'S STRATEGIC WEAPONS FROM 2400 ENVISAGED IN THE 1975 VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT TO BETWEEN 1800 AND 2000.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: TEXT, PRESS COMMENTS, TOSEC, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), PROGRESS REPORTS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Subject: BRZEZINSKI BRIEFING ON SALT NO. 19 HERewith FULL TEXT OF REUTERS REPORT ON BRIEFING
TAGS: SOPN, US, UR, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
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